

I am writing to express my deep concern about the Sinclair Broadcasting Group's decision to air, right before the election, a partisan film denigrating John Kerry . I believe that such extensive partisan opinions should not be given time on national networks right before the election unless there is a fair opportunity to have partisan rebuttals from the other side be heard at or near the same time.

It would be one thing if Sinclair broadcast a film denigrating John Kerry and in the same time slot a day later they broadcast a film like Fahrenheit 9/11. That would be fair. But they are not.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.